A Monthly Newsletter for Council Staff

CLRC Notices

The Enterprise Forum

12 May 10.30am Motivational leadership - How to produce results

RAL Pickavance Lecture Theatre video-linked to DL David Hall beyond expectations.

15 June 10.30am

Delighting our customers - How to treat them so they

keep coming back, David Hall DL

IiP forum

DL. See IiP article on page 5 for more details. 2pm on 19 May Pickavance Lecture Theatre, RAL, with a videolink to

DL Notices

DL public lecture 21 May The eclipse is coming John Parkinson, Sheffield University

DCI seminars

unless otherwise stated: All seminars are held in Conference Room 1 at 2pm

Dr A Sansum, RAL **UNIX Security**

Dr Alan Gadian Department of Physics, UMIST High resolution modelling of airflow over the Isleof Arran 13 May

Dr George Jackson, Imperial College, London complex mixtures of industrial importance Molecular theories of fluid phase equilibria in

Scientific knowledge discovery Dr Yike Guo Imperial College/ Fujitsu Parallel

Computing Research Centre

Articles, ideas and letters are very welcome!

Articles to the Editor or Correspondent by 15th of the month

tory Chilton DIDCOT Oxon OXII 0QX

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8 June Title to be announced

Dr Richard Needs, University of Cambridge

RAL Notices

All lectures are held in the Pickavance Lecture Theatre

27 May

Physics of motor racing Brian O'Rourke, Williams Grand Prix Engineering

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Christian

"He who has the Son, has life."

- 20 Bible theme: The life of Jesus, what does it Secretary of 'Christians at Work', CR2, R1 Guest speaker: Mark McConnell, General
- Bible theme: The life of Jesus, His return mean for me today

27

otherwise stated. All meetings are held at 1230 in CR11, R3 unless

You are warmly invited to attend any of the meetings. In particular, the new series on the life of Jesus may be of interest if you do not normally attend. For further information, please contact Jonathan Wheeler, R27,

per person and spaces are limited; the barbeque is £5 per head, so bring your family along to watch! To book contact Joe Hoskins on ext. 6724 < hoskins@rl.ac.uk> Gliding evening and barbeque Oxford Gliding Club have organised an evening at Weston-on-the-Green on 27 August, Gliding costs £15

Science showcase Molecular simulations

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Particle physics masterclass

Early Universe

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of particle physics at a special Masterclass held at RAL in March. experiencing the excitement teachers, spent a day studying physics, with their

organise the event. "We study the students the excitement my colleagues Physics Department who helped to and I feel for this subject", commented we were able to get across to these physics intriguing and fun, and I hope tiniest particles you can imagine, using Norman McCubbin from the Particle "I have always found particle

large, international experiments. Our

focused in particular on experiments some of these experiments. Activities Laboratory for particle physics at The programme of activities gave

experience of some interactive this research as well as hands-on to meet some of the people involved in the sixth-formers the opportunity both fundamental knowledge of physics". make their own measurements from CERN, and which allowed students to scientists use at the European graphical display programs that discoveries can change our



that study high-energy collisions between electrons and their the early Universe, fractions of a experiments provide a snapshot of antiparticles, positrons. These second after the Big Bang. conditions physicists believe existed in

Continued overleap



CLRC

COUNCIL FOR THE CENTRAL LABORATORY OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Particle physics continued

Students learnt about the brand new BaBar experiment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory in California. This summer BaBar will start investigating the difference between matter and antimatter in an attempt to understand why the Universe seems to contain only matter, although the Big Bang should have created equal quantities of matter and antimatter.

The Masterdass at RAL was one ofa series of 18 similar events held at universities throughout the country during March and April 1999. Organised by the High Energy Particle Physics Group of the Institute of



Hard at work in the particle physics laboratory (99RC1957)

Physics, other university venues included Glasgow, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester.

The schools involved were:

Burford School, Oxfordshire Radley College, Abingdon Downe House, Thatcham, Berkshire Farnborough 6th Form College, Farnborough

> Godolphin School, Salisbury Hurst Lodge, Ascot, Slaugh Portsmouth College, Portsmouth Salesian College, Farnborough, Hampshire Taunton's College, Southampton

For news tips and all about particle physics in the UK see the PPUK website http://hepweb.rl.ac.uk/



Some of the ISIS staff who helped out on the day (99RC1936)

Molecular simulations

aresbury Laboratory, ke line (MSI), and a molecular Simulations in Consortium of UK consort

DL will be a key development and coordination centre for the use of these world class computational methods which allow accurate prediction of atomic processes in solid

state materials. These processes are key to the design and manufacture of materials, chemicals and electronic components.

The Laboratory will distribute MSIs CASTEP quantum mechanics program free to UK universities, develop it further by working with other key UK researchers, and work closely with Molecular Simulations Inc. to transfer these developments into new products.

Nic Harrison of DL said, "This collaboration recognises the unique position that we occupy in computer

simulation work in the UK. We will be able to help Molecular Simulations develop great products by building on the strengths of the work of the country's academic community, and to make sure that the universities in turn benefit from the collaboration. The Laboratory's staff will also be making important contributions to this work. The work has enormous potential to contribute to the success of an important market sector".

Further information is available at http://www.cse.drc.ac.uk/Activity/UKCP

Science showcase

even CLRC scientists
participated in the first
National Showcase of Science,
Engineering and Technology
held at the House of Commons last
month. Over 300 young researchers
from University, Industry and
Government Laboratories competed
for the 'Westminster Awards and
Prizes' at the showcase, held during
SET99. Dennand for places at the event
was overwhelming and necessitated
two receptions, rather than the original
one to enable as many people as
possible to present their research.

The showcase, entitled 'SET for Britain', aimed to highlight young researchers' massive contributions to British science, engineering and technology. The showcase is thought to be the first of its kind at the House of Commons, and was organised by Eric Wharton.

Ruth Bamford and Geoffrey Findlay





igel Smith searches for dark matter

s The Westminster
st Awards and Prizes'
yf Science, included the 'Westminster
hnology Medal', for a younger
mealth for excellence in
richers researcher for excellence in
richers science, engineering or
technology, the 'Fouse of
Commons' SET Award', a
mpeted prestigious award for
during research and development
the event in science, engineering or
sistated technology, of high
potential, by a younger

promising work in the categories of bio-sciences, chemistry, physics and engineering/technology. Ruth Bamford from RAL won a special PPARC prize for her work on radio experiments during the UK 199 radio experiments during the UK 199

researcher; plus poster prizes for the most

Ruth Bamford from RAL won a special PPARC prize for her work on radio experiments during the UK 1999 Total Solar Eclipse. She will be asking the public and radio amateurs to listen to the effect that the eclipse, on 11 August this year, will have on radio reception. The judges liked her project because it successfully combined a very timely event - the eclipse - with some original, real research on radio propagation. "Everyone in the country can help - all they need is an ordinary can left) - all they need is an ordinary



The researchers relax over a drink at lunchtim

country, and whatever the weather is at the time", explained Dr Geoffrey the UK as possible for the experiment "I hope the experiment is a great Findlay of PPARC - one of the judges people, but in which everyone can that would be unexpected to most solar eclipse event to carry out research and other guests. "This project uses the explain the project clearly to the MPs were impressed by her ability to poster was chosen because the judges thousands will participate". Ruth's to be really successful, so I hope that data from as many different areas in AM radio", explained Ruth. "I need participate wherever they are in the



Katarina Koutoulaki explains her poster



A day in the life of...

what does that mean and what does he do? Jane Welborn spent a day with him to find out... Alex Howie is the employee support and recruitment manager at Daresbury Laboratory. But

ever be classed as typical. many of our jobs, no one day could the trade unions. As is the same for RAL Personnel and Policy Groups, and Occupational Health, Training, the Support role, Alex works closely with this isn't where Alex's responsibility taken on the role of Recruitment but ends. In addition to his Employee service. Employee Support has recently So, what does pful title is also reflected in the mployee Support has been operating for three years; it Office. The more friendly replaced the old Personnel the 'Man in Black'

in your lunch break, have you and has learned a lot from questions in all his previous work at DL. Alex through interview panels than he had papers as he is interviewing all next sits down to review some interview of black coffee to be drunk whilst Alex progresses! Well, firstly there were I'll keep an eye on this as the day him but it might provoke some of his colours; today he is sporting a startling (as he's known at DL) actually do? rings - a quick call - and 10 minutes cases and maternity leave. The phone secondments, a variety of personal remembered to key out?) training, pay, follow covering a wide range of subjects barrage of questions and answers enters with a pile of papers. An Support and Recruitment Supervisor, Joanne Cleveland, the Employee of humour? A knock at the door and says Personnel staff haven't got a sense such as "what does a flange do?"; who also enjoys asking unusual questions about the work of the Laboratory view. He says that he has learnt more panel from an Administrative point of interview on a scientific/technical interviews and what it's like to week. I decided to ask him about emails to be answered and, then, a cup visitors to reach for their sunglasses canary yellow shirt. This won't bother Well, sometimes he wears other probation, flexi (if you're reading this

> over allowances, Alex returns to what later after an animated discussion

lacquie Edmunds, the Lab's counsellor people also have to be considered. Alex case; as well as following procedures, question. Then the phone rings again Manager, who has a quick payroll the door, Hilary Manning, Payroll has played a key part in establishing hat' as Alex has to discuss a personal and it's time for a complete 'change of Another friendly face appears at

good word to say about everyone in for one of the payroll team. He has a chap he is as he signs a birthday card his team when I ask him. He then shows what a warm-hearted

to RAL. He's quite often at RAL, before a short afternoon as Alex is off Lunch is a quick turn around

the on-going programme of first aid Straight after lunch Alex reviews

approach to all individuals. Alex needs rules and procedures are to return. This side of Employee what he is working on at the time. to consider the individual regardless of is the greatest asset, with a mindful for an appointment to discuss their there to help not just implement all the Support is often not seen, that they are Being there is an essential tool if people personal situation. Often common sense Another quick change as someone calls first aiders and the trade unions. with Occupational Health, safety reps facilities has involved many discussions Health. Reviewing the first aid facilities on site, with Occupational

bring? There is an image to protect considers what shirt will tomorrov As he drives off in to the night he

Jane Welborn



Recreating the early Universe

of a second of existence are to start this Universe in its first ten-millionths xperiments that will collide beams of gold nuclei together nuclear matter that made up to try to create the kind of

mixture of the quarks and gluons believed to be the ultimate building same way as steam condenses into into protons and neutrons, in much the million degrees, this plasma 'crystallised temperature of around a million blocks of matter. As it cooled to a water when it cools. (QGP) - an intensely hot, soup-like physicists call the quark-gluon plasma The Big Bang created what

> happened. They hope to heat up matter to a very high temperature and heaviest nuclei easily available - lead to manufacture collisions using the these conditions, the researchers need this took place and exactly what to find out the temperature at which Birmingham University will be trying supernova or neutron star. To achieve pressure to recreate the heart of a The Nuclear Physics Group at

stationary lead nuclei. Temperatures of lead nuclei has been smashed into carried out at CERN, where a beam of quark-gluon plasma have already been and gold. a million million degrees have been Experiments trying to create the

> that the plasma is being formed but results are not yet conclusive. achieved and there is some evidence

an energy ten times greater than those at CERN will start soon at the US's create what physicists are already quarks and gluons. Opposing beams of until they vaporise into their constituent the hearts of gold atoms will be heated Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, to tunnel of the Brookhaven's new gold will collide in the underground Brookhaven National Laboratory. Here, experiments producing collisions with Exciting new international

Investors in People

the questionnaire and took part in the during April and a full summary of the The interviews will be completed rating was similar to last year's result. were returned, and the average response interviews. A total of 667 questionnaires Thank you to everyone who returned

survey findings will be published in the next edition of LabNews.

Forum

RAL, with a videolink to DL. Speakers in the Pickavance Lecture Theatre, People will be held at 2pm on 19 May A forum on the benefits of Investors in

experts, so do come along. The event chances for questions to a panel of IiP framework. There will be plenty of the standard will talk about the from organisations who have achieved will be introduced by Dr Westwood. working within the Investors benefits that have been gained from

Hello everyone,

which is a great charity. for 'Action against Breast Cancer' good or what?! And, I've raised £1000 hours 22 minutes, oh yes is that man LONDON MARATHON! I did it in 4 can say that they've run the and I am now one of the many that I finished - all that training paid off

saw in the early stages of the you end up like a man I still have to do the training otherwise couldn't not finish it really. But you the volunteers working for Flora, you encouragement from the crowd and excellent, and with plenty of operation. The organisation was comprehend the sheer scale of the your own eyes to begin to on television; you have to see it with slightly experienced by watching it amazing. It can't be explained or even

to put your name on your T-shirt - it you ever run a marathon and that is and not got in. (A small tip for you if people who have done the training dying after 2 two miles. Quite sad marathon, on the floor practically faster and with more confidence.) you on; I'm sure it makes you run supporters that know you and cheer feels like there are so many and quite annoying too for those

The atmosphere there was quite

the day after! background. Stopping and starting, and over again to see if I was in the the BBC, I've watched the video over pausing and playing - that's all I did Unfortunately I wasn't filmed by

green in fact, almost fluorescent. marathon and it's still green - very 40 washes so as you can imagine I'm I've found out it doesn't wash out for I even dyed my hair green for the





Comic Relief activities raise over £3000 for great causes

big thank you to everyone who played a part in the red nose events on 12 March 1999. A grand total of £2260.67 was raised at DL alone. A range of events and sponsorships were arranged including quizzes, cake stalls, baby picture competitions, raffles, story time, car washing fancy dress and football matches - the list goes on and on. At RAL, a raffle in the Rec Soc and a 'red' collection by the Procurement group raised £1045.52.



beards. The Beards R Us team were on hand to implete the task. How long will the new look last? (DL99/25/63)

RTI stiff were 'fined' for every non-red article of cheling worn that day, and to show how it should be done the contracts learn day deep into their worldbee and donned red - all over. Pictured are Sally Gill, Daine Robbetts, Iemny Baker and Claire Corcoran (99RC1870)

Staff columtered (or was it had they were voluntered?) In he placed in the stocks and for a small charge of 50p or a spruge, stould show them how they felt. For £1 there was the ultimate recenge - a bucket of cold water. Analy Gallagher and lother Towers spectured were just itso of the staff who got wet. The most popular targets placed in the stocks were



Employee Support and the Library (including the men) were sponsored to dress as schoolgirls for the day. Pictured are lan Marsh and Linda Stanley (DL 99/25/17)

The Dougland Cleaners were on hand to give your car a well-earned spring clean. Rita Smallman goes through the wash (DL 99/25/65)

Retirements

How can we put it? We'll miss you Jack!

gathered to say goodbye to him at his t lunchtime on 25 March over 100 f Jack's friends and colleagues

up to the Lab. roundabout and finally hitching a lift catching a bus to the Rowstock cycling to his nearest bus stop, then everyday just to get here, firstly echoed by the trouble he would go to everyone get ready for the 1998 Open Days. Jack's dedication to his work is was always too much work to do, especially last year when Jack helped for the Open Days. Nineteen years the carpentry and odd jobs required Jack Kent was initially employed at RAL in 1980 for a month to help with retirement for the last 3 years but there Jack had, apparently, been considering Project Group, gave the presentation Rick Mason, head of the Building maintenance everywhere on site! later Jack has worked his magic

a bottle of wine, a Ray Roberts card and an arrangement of flowers for his wife. Smith from the R8 workshop, a Black and Decker multi-headed sander, £430, form of a wooden door made by Julian His gifts included a clock in the

> he would lie in bed with a glass of champagne on the first day of his manage to finish a cup of tea! way to work. The thing Jack will miss retirement and toast everyone on their After nineteen years he never did endless urgent jobs that came his way. here, however he won't miss the most is all the friends he has made At his presentation, Jack said that

> > Can I take this opportunity to thank all your readers for the lovely gifts and Thank you all once again. my retirement; and to say sorry to all the people I did not manage to get money I received on the occasion of Dear Natalie, round to see and say goodbye to.

Jack Kent



Jack (right) receives his 'Ray Roberts' card from Rick Mason (99RC1998)



ohn Burren retired from the Advanced

wine (purely for medicinal ISIS muon beamlines.

Gordon was given a case of red

ulie received a bouquet of flowers

station and his crucial role in the development of the ISIS target Rutherford for his key part in the (CERN and SIN) and Daresbury. him to work at accelerators in the energy particle physicist which sent embarked on a career as a medium Birmingham University, Gordon

However, he is known at USA (Princeton), Switzerland

design and construction of all six

Pictured with John (centre, front) are: back left to right, Xiya Shi, Christian Ramprecht, Chris Adams, Chris Cooper Averil Smith (99RC1730) and Rashmi Dravid. Front left to right: Hilda Cook and his friends gathered to wish him well. John has been at RAL tharity which provides medical help for victims of torture. round as a consultant for some time yet. He donated his since the Laboratory was founded, and expects to be seen Communications Unit at the end of February and many of etiremement collection to the Medical Foundation, a



Sylvia Fones (centre, front) with colleagues

It was wonderful to see you all and so and colleagues who joined me to celebrate the occasion of my retirement. I should like to thank all those friends Vatalie

Gordon Eaton

of March after 17 years working TRAL. After gaining a PhD from

ordon Eaton retired at the end

kind of many past colleagues to come.
May I also say a big thank you for
the many gifts I received which I assure you will be treasured.

Sylvia Fones

everyone. Good luck and best wishes to



the wine (99RC2126)

of his career was that every day had Gordon said that the important part is also a particle physicist!). In reply, continue to be experienced at ISIS friendly face and jovial manner will when he visits as a consultant. his time at RAL so much that his

thought he remembered Gordon the practical course (at least, Gavin remember him demonstrating on during Gordon's PhD time, can undergraduate at Birmingham Gavin Williams, who as an Gordon's career were described by at his presentation. Highlights of purposes, of course!), and his wife

and not his twin brother Terry, who

been fun - indeed he had enjoyed

Training

improvement Coaching for performance

workshop to help managers to improve their coaching skills is being A new, participative, two day Waters RAL ext. 5361. piloted at RAL on 18 and 19 May. If Rosie Sherry, RAL ext. 5892 or Miriam further information please contact pilot of this programme or require you would like to participate in the

Learning resource rooms

Irauning web pages) please contact Miriam Waters at RAL on ext. 5361 or our existing stock (our current rooms or requests for new additions to are well used. If you have any these facilities meet your needs and CD roms. We are keen to ensure that stock of manuals, books, videos, and few months, and we are reviewing our Steve Pridding at DL on ext. 3720. catalogue can be viewed on the suggestions for improvements to the will be refurbished during the next The resource rooms at RAL and DI

FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COACHING

A two day workshop with half day follow up and e-mail/telephone support 18-19 May 1999 at RAL

Learn to develop your people by:

- using a coaching process for developing skills, performance,
- using a set of coaching skills that can be used to build
- motivation and confidence using tools and techniques that will help you to overcome the everyday hurdles that managers face when trying to develop or coach their people

focus on real life case studies identified by delegates. This is a highly practical, participative, and fun workshop which will

A new, participative, two day workshop to help managers to improve their coaching skills is being piloted at RAL on 18 and 19 May. If you would like to participate in the pilot of this programme or require further information please contact Rosie Sherry, RAL ext. 5892 or Miriam Waters RAL ext. 5361.

The Sun and the stars shine at the DT

told a packed audience about the latest PPARC for DTI staff. Richard Harrison organised by the DTI, CLRC and Eclipse, the Sun and the Stars' LRC exhibited at an events at The event entitled 'The the DTI as part of SET week.

during the eclipse in August. experiments which will be taking place Department and to find out about the talk to scientists from the Space Science DTI staff also had an opportunity to discoveries from SOHO and Malcolm Longair described the Gemini Telescopes.



school's playing field during the UK eclipse. They are pictured here with Neil Tunstall, head of science year and will be involved in several experiments that Steven Green and Louisa Tunstall travelled up from Helston School, Cornwall, for the day. They were lucky enough to witness an eclipse in Curacao last our own scientists will be performing from the at the school and the Science Minister, Lord Sainsbury (99RC1923,

PPARC's Geoffrey Findlay (99RC1915) SOHO to the Science Minister and Richard Harrison (right) explains



Scottish Fellow

of Edinburgh. Professor Peach is an properties of matter and antimatter expert in the difference between the elected a Fellow of the Royal Society Particle Physics at RAL, has been Professor Ken Peach, Director of

excite the interest, particularly of to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Edinburgh. Experiments at the University of Personal Chair in Particle Physics technology," he said. Ken holds a world of modern science and young people, in the fascinating look forward to using this position to Royal Society of Edinburgh, and I honour to have been elected to the industry and commerce. "It is a great from science, the arts, technology, currently about 1200 Fellows, drawn Useful Knowledge'. There are which was founded in 1783 for the this work that Ken has been elected particles," he commented. It is for we see in the properties of sub-atom between matter and antimatter that can be related to the small differences the universe today, and whether this there seems to be no antimatter left in Advancement of Learning and "I am intrigued by the fact that

Mrs Pamela Castle FRSA has been **NERC Council**

PPARC Council

Culhane, University College London

rofessor James Hough, University of

tools for personal computers. hypertext/hypermedia authoring US subsidiary which became the first Workstations Limited (OWL) and its Metropolitan University. Mr Ritchie Professor at Heriot-Watt University

In addition, Professor Len

and largest supplier of

founded and managed Office and a visiting Professor at Leeds

l April 1999 to 31 March 2002. members of the PPARC Council from Society, have been appointed as new President of the British Computer Durham and Mr Ian Ritchie, Professor Roger Davies, University of

construct a large optical/infrared telescopes, one in each hemisphere. Gemini project to construct two 8m commitment to the international telescope which led to the UK's returned to lead the UK effort to Observatories in Tucson, Arizona especially telescopes. He worked at during the 1980's. A decade ago he the US National Optical Astronomy and astronomical instruments, fields of galaxy evolution, cosmology University since 1994, working in the Professor of Astronomy at Durham Professor Davies has been

representing information systems four other high technology engineering. He is also Chairman of leading professional body British Computer Society, Europe's Mr Ritchie is the President of the



from 1 August this year to 31 July 2001 Barton and will serve as a member industries. She replaces Dr Yvonne pharmaceutical and petrochemical previously worked for both the has a science background and has working in environmental law. She Council. Mrs Castle is a solicitor Natural Environment Research appointed to the Council of the

beginning of this year. It's now available at the much snappier re-appointed. address: http://www.bnsc.gov.uk changed its website address at the The British National Space Centre BNSC website Saxon, University of Glasgow are all Hertfordshire and Professor David

loP awards

Perry at the IoP on 0171 470 4800. you think you might qualify and deadline for nominations is 28 May. If the exciting nature of physics and its want more information contact Katie bringing physics to the public. The have demonstrated excellence, work of individuals or groups who awards are intended to reward the life. The Public Awareness of Physics relevance and impact in everyday which helps to increase awareness of a new scheme to recognise work The Institute of Physics has launched nspiration and innovation in

Sports day winners

10 pin bowling, individual Darren Bungay

Congratulations to CLRC staff who did very well (again!) at the indoor sports day held in March. The winners were:

Squash

Snooker team event

Volleyball

John Sherman

Chris Robey, Adam Baird, Steve Burge and Robin Binningtor

Elaine Hopes, Andy Thompson, Kevin Marsh, Charlotte Bolton and Chris Seelig

